

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/727,531

Examiner

Michael W. Talbot

Applicant(s)

SAKAMAKI ET AL.

Art Unit

3722

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 28 August 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18 and 20.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

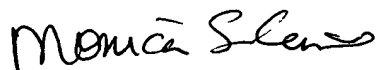
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


MONICA CARTER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

The title of the invention was referenced as being amended on page 2 of the Applicant's amendment filed on 11 August 2005, however the amended title was inadvertently omitted. Please provide the desired title making sure the new title is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Specification:

(a) Page 4, "Description of the Preferred Embodiments" section, line 12, insert sentence "The jaws 4 having a tip end 4b." between the phrases "of the three jaws 4." and "The rotary nuts 3" so as to read --of the three jaws 4. The jaws 4 having a tip end 4b. The rotary nuts 3--.

Drawings:

(a) Add character reference "4b" to Figure 2 identifying the "tip end" of the jaws. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

Claims:

(a) Claim 19 has been deleted in its entirety.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-18 and 20 are allowed.

Claims 1,15 and 20 are the independent claims.

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3. Regarding claim 1, the prior art of record fails to anticipate or make obvious (1) "the slotted portion positioned above the concave engaging means in a state where a tip end of the jaws points downwardly" such that the slotted portion of the rotary sleeve guides the convex engaging means of the ring member toward the concave engaging means of the rotary sleeve so as to retain and prevent the two from falling apart from each other, solely or in combination, with a chuck assembly having a body, a rotary sleeve, a rotary nut, jaws and a ring member disposed about the nut.

Yang et al. '691 is the closest art of record.

Yang et al. '691 shows in Figures 1-4 a chuck assembly (100) having a rotary sleeve (5) provided on a body (1), a ring member (7) engaged with a two piece rotary nut (2) and jaws (3) engaged with the two piece rotary nut to provide forward and backward movement of the jaws for engagement of a tool insert. Yang et al. '691 further shows a convex and concave engaging means (5-1,5-2,7-1,7-2) located between the ring member and the rotary sleeve for securing the ring member and rotary sleeve together. Yang et al. '691 further shows the convex and concave engaging means comprising a concave groove portion (5-2) located on the circumferential surface of the rotary sleeve and a convex portion having an arm projection (7-1) and a foot/tab projection (7-2) located on the ring member, both at a predetermined angular position. Yang et al. '691 further shows a slotted portion (5-1) that guides the convex engaging means (7-1,7-2) via the arm projection (7-1) portion towards the concave groove portion (5-2) until the convex foot/tab projection (7-2) portion reaches and extends into the concave groove portion so as to be held in place (col. 5, lines 31-41). Yang et al. '691 further shows the concave engaging groove being U-shaped as defined by the walls and bottom of the groove forming the U-shaped configuration.

Yang et al. '691 discloses the claimed invention except for "the slotted portion being positioned above the concave engaging means in a state where a tip end of the jaw points downwardly" such that the slotted portion of the rotary sleeve guides the convex engaging means of the ring member toward the concave engaging means of the rotary sleeve so as to retain and prevent the two from falling apart from each other. Although it is well known to have a slotted portion, concave means and convex means being part of the rotary sleeve and/or rotary nut, there is no teaching in the prior art of record that would, reasonably and absent impermissible hindsight, motivate one having ordinary skill in the art to so modify the teachings of Yang et al. '691, noting that in Yang et al. '691, the convex means (7-1,7-2) of the ring member engages the concave engaging means (5-2), specifically portion (7-2), and through rotation, is moved into the slotted portion (5-1), specifically portion (7-1), with no further movement independent of rotary sleeve in lieu of "the slotted portion being positioned above the concave engaging means" such that the slotted portion of the rotary sleeve guides the convex engaging means of the ring member toward the concave engaging means of the rotary sleeve as recited in claim 1. Thus, for at least the foregoing reasons, the prior art of record neither anticipates nor rendered obvious the present invention as set forth in independent claim 1.

4. Claims 15 and 16 are allowed (Claim 15 originally indicated as allowable subject matter in Final Office Action dated 03 November 2005).

Claim 15 is the independent claim.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art of record fails to anticipate or make obvious, solely or in combination, the claimed construction of longitudinal grooves (9b) contiguous with both ends of the circumferential groove (9a).

Yang et al. '691 is the closest art of record.

Yang et al. '691 lacks the longitudinal grooves contiguous with both ends of the circumferential groove.

5. Regarding claim 20, the prior art of record fails to anticipate or make obvious (1) "wherein the slotted portion does not extend into the concave engaging means", solely or in combination, with a chuck assembly having a body, a rotary sleeve, a rotary nut, jaws and a ring member disposed about the nut, wherein the slotted portion of the rotary sleeve guides the convex engaging means of the ring member toward the concave engaging means of the rotary sleeve so as to retain and prevent the two from falling apart from each other, wherein the construction of the slotted portion of the rotary sleeve is separate from the concave engaging means of the rotary sleeve.

Yang et al. '691 is the closest art of record.

Yang et al. '691 shows in Figures 1-4 a chuck assembly (100) having a rotary sleeve (5) provided on a body (1), a ring member (7) engaged with a two piece rotary nut (2) and jaws (3) engaged with the two piece rotary nut to provide forward and backward movement of the jaws for engagement of a tool insert. Yang et al. '691 further shows a convex and concave engaging means (5-1,5-2,7-1,7-2) located between the ring member and the rotary sleeve for securing the ring member and rotary sleeve together. Yang et al. '691 further shows the convex and concave engaging means comprising a concave groove portion (5-2) located on the circumferential surface of the rotary sleeve and a convex portion having an arm projection (7-1) and a foot/tab projection (7-2) located on the ring member, both at a predetermined angular position. Yang et al. '691 further shows a slotted portion (5-1) that guides the convex engaging means (7-1,7-2) via the arm projection (7-1) portion towards the concave groove portion (5-2) until the convex foot/tab projection (7-2) portion reaches and extends into the concave groove portion so as to be held in place (col. 5, lines 31-41). Yang et al. '691 further shows the

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concave engaging groove being U-shaped as defined by the walls and bottom of the groove forming the U-shaped configuration.

Yang et al. '691 discloses the claimed invention except for "the slotted portion of the rotary sleeve does not extend into the concave engaging means of the rotary sleeve" such that the construction of the slotted portion of the rotary sleeve is separate from the concave engaging means of the rotary sleeve. Although it is well known to have a slotted portion, and a concave means to guide a convex member, there is no teaching in the prior art of record that would, reasonably and absent impermissible hindsight, motivate one having ordinary skill in the art to so modify the teachings of Yang et al. '691, noting that in Yang et al. '691, the slotted portion (5-1) runs into (i.e. is part of) the concave engaging means (5-2), see Figs. 1, 1A, 1B, 2, 2A and 2B, in lieu of being separate from one another (i.e. does not extend into) as recited in claim 20. Thus, for at least the foregoing reasons, the prior art of record neither anticipates nor rendered obvious the present invention as set forth in independent claim 20.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning the content of this communication from the examiner should be directed to Michael W. Talbot, whose telephone number is 571-272-4481. The examiner's office hours are typically 8:30am until 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. The examiner's supervisor, Mrs. Monica S. Carter, may be reached at 571-272-4475.

In order to reduce pendency and avoid potential delays, group 3720 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office Actions directly into the Group at FAX number 571-273-8300.

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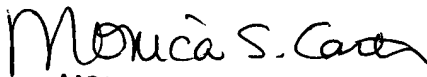
This practice may be used for filling papers not requiring a fee. It may also be used for filing papers, which require a fee, by applicants who authorize charges to a USPTO deposit account.

Please identify Examiner Michael W. Talbot of Art Unit 3722 at the top of your cover sheet.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

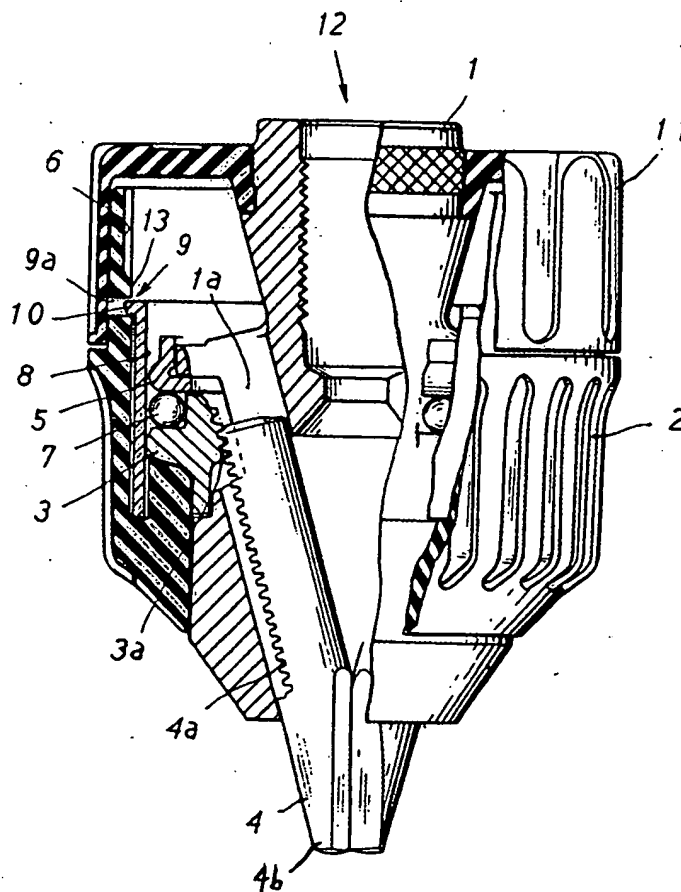


MWT
Examiner
9 November 2006



MONICA CARTER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

FIG. 2



ENTER 11/8/06 MWR